

## Keith Beaudin

**Title:** “The American Business Consultants and the War on Hollywood”

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Keith Beaudin moved around for the first eight years of his life but has lived outside of Fort Wayne for the last 13. Keith is most interested in the history of American culture, specifically film and music. He graduated high school in 2007 and won the Silver Pen award in Journalism. Keith recently won 1st place for an original screenplay at the 2010 Purdue Literary Awards. After graduating Keith hopes to study film/screen-writing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

## Abstract

In 1950 a booklet called *Red Channels* was published and immediately became a bestseller with film studios in Hollywood. The book was written by a group called The American Business Consultants (ABC), who, thanks to influence from the FBI for whom they used to work, and the House Committee of Un-American Activities, were able to become one of the most influential anticommunist watchdog groups of the Second Red Scare. After working on a magazine called *Counterattack*, the ABC soon focused all their attention on Hollywood actors, directors, musicians, and writers suspected of being communists. Some of the most prominent cases they listed were those of Zero Mostel, Orson Welles, Edward G. Robinson, Jean Muir, and Walter Bernstein, who wrote one of the most important memoirs of the blacklist. In addition to *Red Channels*, the ABC influenced other copy cat groups led by men they worked with personally including the vicious writer Vincent Hartnett and clever grocer Laurence Johnson. Even after the ABC disbanded their influence saw to it that actors and writers had a very difficult time finding work thanks to their political views.